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penetration of these parasites and their influence on the vital functions.—*English Mechanic.*

— Professor J. P. Lesley begins, in Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, No. 112, an interesting biographical notice of the late Swiss naturalist and geologist, Desor, who at one time was so closely identified with American geology and zoölogy during his residence in this country.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON, March 30.—Communications were made by Mr. Newton P. Scudder on the length of the hatching period of the domestic fowl; by Dr. Thomas Taylor on section cutting and mounting of hard woods; and on a new parasite in fowls, of the nature of Trichina. Exhibition of specimens included specimens illustrating Accidents to animals, by Mr. F. A. Lucas; The bones of the sea cow (Rhytina), by F. W. True; Another jumping seed, Remarks on bee-fly larvæ and their singular habits, A burrowing butterfly larva, by Professor C. V. Riley. Professor J. W. Chickering, Jr., on Mount Kataadn; Professor L. F. Ward on hybrid oaks of the District of Columbia.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY, March 21.—Professor S. P. Sharples gave an account of a visit to Turk's island; and Mr. S. Garman made some remarks on fossil horses.

April 4.—Professor Hyatt discussed the sudden appearance and quicker evolution of ancient types of animals; and Dr. M. E. Wadsworth spoke of the Bishopville meteorite.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, April 2.—The following paper was presented: An inquiry into the carbon present in bituminous shales, by Professor John S. Newberry.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB, March 14.—Mr. R. B. Lawrence read a paper entitled, "Two weeks in Norway," illustrated by the lantern; Professor E. C. Pickering read a paper on mountain observatories; and Mr. A. E. Scott spoke on the exploration of the Twin Mountain range.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE PHILADELPHIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, Feb. 13.—Papers presented: "On a new Unio from Florida," by B. H. Wright; "Catalogue of the Fishes of the Atlantic Coast," by Jos. Swain and G. B. Kolb; "Notes on the Birds of Westmoreland county," by C. H. Townsend. Mr. Townsend called attention to the albino birds in the collection of the Academy. Dr.

Leidy stated that the Anodontas brought to him were infested with water-mites, marked with a Y-shaped yellow band; he identified the species with the *Atax ypsilophorus*, described by Bonz a hundred years ago, as found in *Anodonta cygnea* of Europe. Professor Heilprin attacked the theory of a great ice-mountain in the north during the glacial era. In temperate regions clouds descend in winter to 5000 or even 3060 feet, and it is impossible for snow to form above the vapor line; how high this may be in the Arctic regions is not known, but it can scarcely be higher than 6000 feet, which would render the filing up of ice to such a height that it would flow southward over the area believed to have been glaciated a physical impossibility. Professor Lewis brought forward the evidence of the striæ and boulders in favor of a continuous ice flow, and stated that the ice in Greenland is now 6000 feet thick. Professor Heilprin believed 2000 feet to be more nearly correct, and said that the thickness of bergs was greatly over-estimated, as the part under water was usually assumed to be equal in horizontal extent with that above, whereas, in fact, it was, in most cases, much greater.

Feb. 20.—Professor Lewis read a paper by Miss Foulke describing the formation and liberation from the interior of *Volvox globator*, of amœboids, which showed their animal nature by devouring the gonidea of the Volvox. These amœboids were in several cases seen to assume a form closely resembling that of *Actinophrys sol.* Mr. Cresson presented a hammer of native copper, with a laminar surface and structure caused by hammering pieces of native copper together while cold; he called attention to a half hole in this hammer, a feature found in the hammers of the Eastern continent in Neolithic and later periods. Dr. J. Skinner communicated an instance of insect intelligence. A small beetle which had been knocked off a leaf on to a pavement came to a fallen leaf, and immediately threw itself on its back and pulled the leaf over its body to hide itself.